Self Tattooing and Piercing

(What You Need to Know)
Tattooing

- Decisions to:
  - Exposure to Blood Borne Diseases
  - Allergic Reactions
  - Permanent Injury
  - 50% regret decision
  - Future Employment
  - Permanent
  - Expensive Laser Removal
  - May not always be the in thing
What Infectious Problems May Arise as a Result of Tattoos?

- Most common are the local bacterial infections (pyoderma, impetigo, furunculosi) due to Group A hemolytic streptococcus and Staphylococcus aureus.

- Syphilis has also been reported in the past. There were nine case series between 1853 and 1941 where the tattooist had oral lesions, and held the needles in their mouth, or used saliva on the stencil design to stick it to the skin. Primary syphilitic lesions present 13 to 87 days later.

- Tuberculosis (TB) has also been documented. Six cases were reported between 1895 and 1918. A tattooist who has pulmonary TB, and keeps the needles in his/her mouth, or licks the stencil, can infect others with cutaneous TB.
What Infections Problems May Arise as a Result of Tattoos?

- Warts due to papillomavirus or molluscum are also possible. The virus infects the ink or the needles, and the warts can appear anywhere from one month to one year later.
- 246 cases of Hepatitis B have been described between 1950 to 1980.
What Non-infectious Problems Are Seen with Tattoos?

- Allergic reactions.
- Basal cell and squamous cell carcinoma, as well as malignant melanoma. (However, it is not known whether the tattoos themselves are predisposed to the neoplastic changes, or that lesions go unrecognized because of the overlying tattoo. It is more likely the latter.)
Piercing

Decision to:

- Diseases, Hepatitis B, HIV
- Develop Infection (Seek Medical)
- Rip Flesh
- May not always be socially accepted
- Future Employment
- Possibly Permanent
Oral Piercings

- The lips, cheeks, and midline of the tongue are popular sites for oral piercings.
- Perforation of lingual blood vessels can cause bleeding and hematoma formation.
- Edema frequently develops after tongue piercing, so a longer barbell is recommended initially.
Oral Piercing

Another serious consequence of oral piercing is compromise of the airway from trauma, tongue swelling, or obstruction by jewelry. Securing an adequate airway or endotracheal intubation can be challenging when a patient has a tongue barbell.

If lingual jewelry cannot be removed easily or expeditiously, precautions should be taken during intubation to ensure that jewelry is not loosened and aspirated or swallowed. Removal of oral and nasal jewelry also is recommended before nonemergent surgical procedures.
Another serious consequence of oral piercing is compromise of the airway from trauma, tongue swelling, or obstruction by jewelry. Securing an adequate airway or endotracheal intubation can be challenging when a patient has a tongue barbell. If lingual jewelry cannot be removed easily or expeditiously, precautions should be taken during intubation to ensure that jewelry is not loosened and aspirated or swallowed. Removal of oral and nasal jewelry also is recommended before non-emergent surgical procedures.
Non-Infectious Complications of Piercing

- Metal allergic dermatitis
- Keloid formation
- Jewelry embedded in tissue
- Lymphadenopathy
- Torn tissue
Tongue piercing

- Airway obstruction from edema following tongue piercing.
- Aspiration of loose jewelry
- Chipped or cracked dentition
- Interference with mastication
- Speech impediment, nerve damage
Dental Complications

Chipping (or fracture) of teeth is the most common dental problem related to tongue barbells.
Eyelid

- Corneal abrasion
- Eye infections
Eyebrow

- Many nerves in the eyebrow area
- Piercing may result in loss of sensation and movement of area of forehead
Nose

- Dangerous area to have an infection
- Infection in the nose area migrates into the sinus cavities
- Infection may migrate to the brain
- Infectious Diseases could include
  - Staph infections
  - Meningitis
Professional Establishments

- Exposure to infection and injury possible at a “Professional Establishment”.
- Must be 18 years of age
- Expensive
- Alternative
Home Tattooing and Piercing

- More chance of exposure to infection and disease
- Improper sterilization
- Improper technique causing permanent scars and injury
- Materials used not of professional quality
- Why would you risk trying this at home?
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